



NEWS RELEASE

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Agents Thwart Smuggling Attempt *Discover "Mobile Smuggling Apparatus"*

CHULA VISTA, Calif. – Border Patrol Agents working in the East County discovered a specially designed "mobile ramp system" that smugglers were utilizing to drive vehicles up and over the International Boundary Fence. Agents also seized a large quantity of marijuana and a vehicle that was being used in this brazen smuggling attempt.

Agents patrolling the border near Boulevard early this morning observed a small sport utility vehicle being driven westbound directly adjacent to the International Border. As Agents approached the vehicle, two occupants exited and fled into Mexico. An inspection of the abandoned vehicle revealed over 266 pounds of marijuana with an estimated street value of \$213,200.00. Agents later discovered the "mobile ramp system" a short distance from the abandoned drug laden vehicle.

Smugglers would position the vehicle being used to transport the "ramp system", close to the south side of the International Boundary Fence. Steel ramps, fastened to the top and front portion of the vehicle, would be manually extended and lowered. Smugglers would then drive vehicles up and over the fence and into the United States.

Mexican authorities later confiscated the smuggling apparatus, which was located in Mexico. The abandoned vehicle and marijuana were seized by the Border Patrol and turned over to Operation Alliance.

~ USBP ~

Video is also available.